GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2758
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Empowerment of Panchayats
Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad;Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

a) the details of the fresh measures taken by the Government to make the gram panchayat system more strong and empowered;
b) whether some State Governments have raised objection on direct transfer of funds allocated by the Finance Commission to village Panchayats;
c) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the infrastructure development of the panchayats?

Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award, substantial funds to the tune of Rs 2,00,292.20 crore are being devolved exclusively for the Gram Panchayats over a period of five years (2015-20) which offers Gram Panchayats a unique opportunity to strengthen local governance and improve delivery of basic services. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has taken several steps to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) including the Gram Panchayats (GPs), in the States and Union Territories (UTs) covered under the Part IX of the Constitution through provisioning of financial and technical assistance under the schemes and programmes of the government and issue of advisories from time to time. The various measures taken include incentivizing States which have devolved more functions, funds and functionaries to Panchayats, providing financial and technical assistance for capacity building of Panchayats to enable them to perform the devolved functions effectively and efficiently, strengthening systems of budgeting, accounting and auditing, development of software applications and imparting training for their use to bring in transparency, accountability and efficiency in their functioning, incentive awards to the best performing Panchayats and assisting the States in formulation of detailed guidelines for preparation of participatory Gram Panchayat Development Plans by the GPs utilising the resources available at their command. The progress of implementation of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution is reviewed by MoPR from time to time through meetings and discussions with the States.

(b) No such request has been received from any State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Apart from improving infrastructure relating to delivery of basic services under the FFC award, the Panchayats can use the funds available under other state and centrally sponsored schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for provisioning infrastructure facilities in Panchayats as per respective scheme guidelines.